

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
-----020215Z 012875 /64

R 012210Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0044

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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ATTN: ARA LABOR ADVISOR PASS TO AFL-CIO AND AIFLD/W

EO 11652 : N/A

TAGS : ELAB CI MX

SUBJ : DON FIDEL TO VISIT USSR

REF : MEXICO 1154

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS FEB 1 CARRIED BACK-PAGE ARTICLE CLAIMING CTM SECY GEN FIDEL VELASQUEZ "WILL GO TO SOVIET UNION MARCH 24" --- AT INVITATION OF "C.A. SHIBAIV, PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET LABOR COUNCIL." THE ARTICLE INDICATES HE WILL VISIT TO "STUDY METHODS OF LABOR ORGANIZATION, JOB CONDITIONS AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF SOVIET WORKERS." APPARENTLY NO OTHER DAILY HAS PRINTED THE INFORMATION.

2. A TOP-LEVEL CTM OFFICER CONFIRMED TO LABATT THAT VELASQUEZ HAD RECEIVED THE INVITATION BUT HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ON WHETHER HE WOULD ACTUALLY MAKE THE TRIP. HE CONFIDED THAT IF VELASQUEZ WENT HE WOULD GO SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION TO CORRECT A SERIOUS HIP PROBLEM WHICH HAS CAUSED INCREASING PAIN AND DISABILITY DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. SAME OFFICER CONFIDED THAT FIDEL MADE A QUICK

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UNSUCCESSFUL TRIP TO LONDON IN DECEMBER TO SEEK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: IRONICALLY SAME DAY EXCELSIOR CARRIED STATEMENT BY MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) HEAD PABLO GOMEZ WHICH URGED FIDEL TO HONOR A PAST PROMISE TO RETIRE FROM HIS CTM POST. GOMEZ ALSO POOH-POOHED

VELASQUEZ RECENT CLAIM THAT "CHRISTIAN LABOR FORCES"
WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE OF 1968 (REFTEL).
THE MEXICAN BISHOPS' PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS LIKEWISE
CHALLENGED THE THRUST OF THE VELASQUEZ STATEMENT, AND
MEXICO CITY'S NEW POLICY CHIEF, GENERAL ARTURO DURAZO,
HAS OFFERED TO LOOK INTO THE CHANGE IF VELASQUEZ WOULD PROVIDE
HIM IN WRITING WITH THE FACTS ON WHICH HE BASED HIS STATEMENTS.

4. REPORTS OF FIDEL'S HEALTH PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY
COVERED UP BY THE CTM AND NATION'S PRESS. WHILE HIS
PRESENT PROBLEM IS WIDELY DISCUSSED AMONG CTM AND PRI
UNION LEADERS, THOSE CLOSE TO HIM ARE QUICK TO DENY THAT
HIS INFIRMITY MIGHT LEAD TO RETIREMENT -- TO QUICK AT
TIMES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO01197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770036-0481
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770286/aaaacxwa.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc906dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 1154
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3441756
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DON FIDEL TO VISIT USSR
TAGS: ELAB, CI, MX, UR, (VELASQUEZ, FIDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc906dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009